

c.) Amendments to the Claims

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1. (Cancelled)
 2. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39, wherein said fuel liquid and said container are composed of materials consisting essentially of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen atoms which, upon combustion, produce water and carbon dioxide, and are substantially free of chlorinated compounds.
 3. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39 wherein said suitable quantity of combustible, alcohol-based fuel liquid is between approximately 1 and 10 fluid ounces.
 4. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39, wherein said suitable quantity of combustible alcohol-based fuel liquid is between 2 and 6 fluid ounces.
 5. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39, wherein ~~the principal alcohol in said liquid~~ further consists of alcohol is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, and 3 carbon atom-containing alcohols, and combinations thereof.
 6. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 5, wherein said principal alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, and combinations thereof.
 7. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises ethanol and at least 6% by weight isopropanol, wherein enhanced and sustained flame visibility is provided by the presence of said isopropanol in said fuel liquid.
 8. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 1 + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid further comprises between 1% and 35% by weight water, wherein said water

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reduces the rate combustion of said liquid and the rate of heat transmission to said container.

9. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said fuel liquid further comprises an effective amount of at least one bittering agent.

10. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein the ~~composition of~~ said ~~alcohol-based fuel~~ liquid provides enhanced flame visibility upon combustion, said composition comprising between approximately 65% and 100% by weight of a mixture of alcohols comprising ethanol and isopropanol, wherein isopropanol comprises between approximately 6% and 66% by weight of said composition and ethanol comprises between approximately 34% and 94% by weight of said composition, and wherein the weight ratio of said isopropanol to said ethanol in said composition does not exceed 2:1; and between approximately 0% and 35% by weight of water.

11. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said container is fabricated from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polycarbonates, and combinations thereof.

12. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said container is fabricated from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate and combinations thereof.

13. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said container measures between 0.5 and 3.0 inches in height and between 2 and 8 inches in diameter or width, ~~and is configured in the form of an open bowl or tub.~~

14. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said adequate thickness of said sidewall is between approximately 0.010 and 0.040 inches.

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15. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid further comprises at least one thickening or gelling agent.
16. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent in an amount effective to produce an absolute kinematic viscosity at 20.degree. C. of from 250-100,000 cp.
17. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight of said fuel liquid.
18. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent present in an amount from 0.2% to 1% by weight of said fuel liquid.
19. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said liquid contains a thickening or gelling agent selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, natural gums, inorganic thickeners, and synthetic homopolymers and copolymers having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms per monomer unit.
20. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxycellulose, hydroxyalkylcellulose, and carboxymethylcellulose.
21. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 20, wherein said hydroxyalkylcellulose thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.
22. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a synthetic homopolymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic

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acids, polyacrylic acid esters, polyacrylic acid amides, polymethacrylic acids, polymethacrylic acid esters, polymethacrylic acid amides, polyvinylacetate, and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

23. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a natural gum selected from the group consisting of acacia, alginate, carrageenan, guar, karaya, pectin, tragacanth, and xanthan.

24. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is an inorganic thickener selected from the group consisting of silicas and clays.

25. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim + 39, wherein said assembly further comprises an alcohol-impermeable sealing cover film ~~sealingly~~ attached to the ~~upper edge of said perimeter sidewall to~~ a mouth of the container to form either a hermetic or a removable seal over said container, wherein said sealing cover film, together with said container, prevent leakage and evaporation of said liquid during storage and shipping.

26. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 25, wherein said assembly further comprises a protective overcap lid placed over said sealing cover film and secured to said ~~perimeter sidewall~~ mouth of said container.

27. (Amended) The ~~fire-starting~~ assembly of claim 25, wherein said sealing cover film is selected from the group consisting of induction-sealable thermoplastic films, heat-sealable thermoplastic films, and foil-thermoplastic composite sheets.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Amended) A method of igniting charcoal and wood fires comprising igniting the fuel in an assembly of claim + 39, and allowing said assembly to burn beneath a

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suitable quantity of charcoal or wood to be ignited for a time sufficient to ignite said quantity of charcoal or wood.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said assembly comprises a container sealing sheet, further comprising piercing or otherwise disrupting said container sealing sheet of the container in said assembly prior to igniting said fuel, wherein said assembly is an assembly of claim 25.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein said suitable quantity of charcoal is at least 2 pounds.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A kit comprising at least one combustible fire-starting assembly of claim 25, and a quantity of charcoal lumps suitable for preparing a charcoal fire.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) The kit of claim 34, wherein said quantity of charcoal is at least 2 pounds.

37. (Original) The kit of claim 34, further comprising printed instructions for use.

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38. (NEW) A method for heating a material, comprising igniting the fuel in an assembly of claim + 39, and allowing said fuel to burn beneath said material.

39. (NEW) A combustible assembly comprising a quantity of alcohol-based fuel liquid held within a freestanding, combustible, alcohol-resistant and alcohol-impermeable open plastic container of shape which is a member of the group which consists of:

- (a) a bowl;
- (b) a cup;
- (c) a tub;
- (d) a dish; and

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(c) a cannister,

said container having a height, and comprising an opening at a point of maximum width, wherein the maximum width is at least equal to the height, and wherein said container is made of a plastic composition, thickness and rigidity as to retain said liquid without leakage throughout the period of combustion., with said container entirely consumed together with the liquid.

40 (New) A kit comprising:

- (1) a quantity of combustible alcohol-based fuel liquid;
- (2) a freestanding, combustible, alcohol-resistant and alcohol-impermeable open plastic container of shape which is a member of the group which consists of:

- (a) a bowl;
- (b) a cup;
- (c) a tub;
- (d) a dish; and
- (e) a cannister,

said container having a height, and comprising an opening at a point of maximum width, wherein the maximum width is at least equal to the height, and wherein said container is made of a plastic composition, thickness and rigidity as to retain said liquid without leakage throughout the period of combustion., with said container entirely consumed together with the liquid.

- (3) an alcohol-impermeable removeable sealing cover film adhesively attached to the opening; and
 - (4) a multiplicity of charcoal lumps suitable for preparing a charcoal fire.
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(d) Comments

1. Claims 5, 10, 25, and 35 have been amended to traverse the Examiner's rejections.
2. In regard to the Examiner's § 103(a) rejections in light of the CVS.com isopropyl alcohol: the present invention relies on the opening, or mouth of the container to be of sufficient width as related to the container height as required to support combustion. The narrow neck of the CVS bottle will not allow enough oxygen into the bottle to support the burning of the alcohol, at least not when the level of the alcohol is not within a few millimeters of the top. The base claim 39, which replaces claim 1 makes this clear by claiming a container " * * * comprising an opening at a point of maximum width, wherein the maximum width is at least equal to the height * * *".
3. Regarding the § 103 (a) rejection of claims 25-27 by the combination of CVS and Fitch, it is noted that since independent claim 39 is patentable, claims 25-27, being dependent upon claim 39 are also patentable.
4. Regarding the Examiner's § 103 rejection as anticipated by JP 62020594, said reference does not anticipate claim 39 of the current invention because said reference has, in each of its embodiments, an "inorganic material, such as calcium carbonate or titanium oxide". See exhibit B, page 1 paragraph 2, which does not appear as an element in the present invention. Furthermore, the presence of this inorganic material is "keeping the container which holds the fuel * * * in good condition while burning". *Ibid*, paragraph 3. The present invention accomplishes this objective without the need for inorganic material, rather using a plastic compound free of the inorganic material. In addition, the present invention completely consumes the container without leaking the fuel in the process, while JP 62020594 is silent on this issue.